Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1-26 (canceled)

27) (Currently amended) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:

providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,

providing an elastomeric material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, thermoplastic elastomers and rubber, natural and synthetic,

molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports.

28) (Canceled)

29) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

30) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the elastomeric material is a rubber.

31) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the seal extends at least 0.001 inch above at least one side of the layer.

32) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the seal extends above both sides of the layer.

33) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the seal extends from about 0.001 to about 0.015 inch above at least one side of the layer.

34) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the seal extends from about 0.001 to about 0.015 inch above both sides of the layer.

35) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the seal is formed by injection molding.

36) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a feed screen.

37) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a filter.

38) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a filtrate layer.

39) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 wherein seal is in a form selected from the group consisting of a gasket, an O-ring and a sealing rim.

40) (Previously presented) The process of claim 27 further comprising a sealing rim formed around at least a portion of the periphery of a surface of the layer.

41) (Previously presented) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:

providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,

providing two molds each corresponding to a half of the seal design,

aligning the two molds on opposite sides of layer around at least one of the ports,

providing an elastomeric material to the two molds,

molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports.

42) (Previously presented) The process of claim 41 wherein the elastomeric material is injected into either one or both of the molds.

43) (Currently amended) A process for forming an integral seal on a filter cartridge comprising the steps of :

providing a filter cartridge with one or more recesses formed thereon,

providing an elastomeric material <u>selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, thermoplastic elastomers and rubber, natural and synthetic,</u>

and

applying the material to the one or more recesses so as to form an integral seal.

44) (Previously presented) The process of claim 43 wherein the seal extends outwardly from the one or more recesses.

45) (Previously presented) The process of claim 43 wherein the seal extends outwardly from the one or more recesses at least 0.001 inch.

46) (Previously presented) The process of claim 43 wherein the seal extends outwardly from the one or more recesses from about 0.001 to about 0.015 inch.

47) (Previously presented) The process of claim 43 wherein the seal is formed by injection molding.

48) (Previously presented) The process of claim 43 wherein the seal is formed by injection molding using a mold around the one or more recesses.

49) (Currently amended) A method of forming a filtration module comprising the steps of :
selecting one or more feed screen layers, one or more membrane layers, one or more filtrate layers, the one or more feed screen and filtrate layers having one or more openings formed therein,
injection molding a gasket around one or more of the openings of the feed screen,
assembling the module by placing a feed screen, adding a membrane to at least one side of the feed screen and adding a filtrate layer over the membrane and compressing the layers together.

50. (New) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:
providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,
providing an elastomeric material,
molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a feed screen.

51. (New) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:
providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,
providing an elastomeric material,
molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a filter.

52. (New) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:
providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,
providing an elastomeric material,
molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports wherein the height of the seal is also used to vary the channel height of the layer which is in the form of a filtrate layer.

53. (New) A process for forming an integral seal around a port comprising the steps of:

providing a layer selected from the group consisting of a filter, a feed screen and a filtrate layer, the layer having one or more ports formed through it,

providing an elastomeric material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, thermoplastic elastomers and rubber, natural and synthetic,

injection molding the elastomeric material into an integral seal around at least one of the one or more ports in the layer such that the material forms a liquid tight seal around the at least one of the one or more ports wherein